

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for the continuous extrusion of an adhesive formulation comprising rubber (20), a hydrocarbon resin (22), and a solvent (26), which method comprises the following steps:

providing a dual screw extruder;

introducing the rubber and the resin into the dual screw extruder at an initial section thereof;

adding at least a fraction of the solvent (26) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section; and

controlling the temperature of the extruder such that the rubber and the resin are dissolved in the solvent to produce a composition and such that at the outlet of the extruder (10) the temperature of the composition is less than the boiling point of the solvent (26) whereby the composition is the adhesive formulation in which the resin and rubber are dissolved in the solvent such that the adhesive formulation has tackifying properties; and

extruding the composition,

wherein the portion of the extruder (10) that is upstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between 60 °C. and 120 °C. whereas, in the portion of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between

40 °C. and 80 °C., the temperature in the upstream portion being greater than that prevailing in the downstream portion.

2. (currently amended): A method according to Claim-claim 1, in which a first addition of solvent (26) takes place at a distance of at least 4 times a diameter of the extruder from the initial section of the extruder (10).

3. (currently amended): A method according to Claim-claim 1 in which the solvent (26) is added at a plurality of different points disposed downstream of the initial section of the extruder (10).

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, which provides for the addition of at least a fraction of the hydrocarbon resin (22) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the rubber (20) is selected from the group consisting of natural rubbers, synthetic rubbers and mixtures thereof.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the solvent (26) is selected from the group consisting of hexane, pentane, dichloropropane, and mixtures thereof.

9. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the dual-screw extruder (10) is of the co-rotating type.